

NEIGHBORHOODS ACTION GROUP • SUMMARY • 4-24-2009

GOAL 1 - Empower residents as decision makers & actors

ACTION 1: Coordinated effort to develop youth and adult leadership

Create or strengthen neighborhood organizations and youth groups in selected high poverty neighborhoods, developing leadership that is representative of the area and based upon residents' common interests.

<i>What are the STEPS to carry out the action?</i>	<i>Who might take the LEAD?</i>	<i>New RESOURCES needed?</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify four to six possible pilot neighborhoods, to have cross-section of neighborhoods at various development levels [Low – no neighborhood group; Middle – some neighborhood group; High – strong neighborhood group] 2. Locate example of success in (a) these high poverty areas; (b) other areas of the city 3. Contact residents and stakeholders to find initial groups of adults and youth 4. Hold a Community Meeting and make plans for more than one issue to increase sustainability 	<p>Youth – Oasis Center</p> <p>Adults – Neighborhoods Resource Center, Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods</p>	<p>One FTE from existing network of agencies and resources</p> <p>[Total of two additional FTE's needed for all goals, possibly through Neighborhoods Resource Center]</p>

ACTION 2 - Build coalitions to respond to issues beyond one neighborhood

Build coalitions of neighborhood groups, to link neighborhoods that have similar concerns and to encourage key decision-makers to respond to neighborhood issues as expressed by these groups.

<i>What are the STEPS to carry out the action?</i>	<i>Who might take the LEAD?</i>	<i>New RESOURCES needed??</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bring together groups (from step one) and define common purpose and priorities 2. Help coalitions identify common issues and take specific actions 3. Capacity building through partnerships such as the Nashville Neighborhood Alliance (Metro agencies, United Way, NRC, etc.) 4. Identify common issues and specific actions to take 	<p>United Way, Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods, Neighborhoods Resource Center, Nashville Neighborhood Alliance.</p>	<p>Existing staff time</p> <p>[Total of two additional FTE's needed for all goals, possibly through Neighborhoods Resource Center]</p> <p>Small budget for food, child care, meeting expense</p>

GOAL 2 - Increase neighborhood economic vitality, including commercial services needed, diversity of housing options, etc

ACTION 1 - Identify a framework of general categories to work from

Develop a list of general categories of community features related to Poverty (*economic conditions, transportation options, food access, crime, housing*) for residents to use to assess neighborhood assets & needs

<i>What are the STEPS to carry out the action?</i>	<i>Who might take the LEAD?</i>	<i>New RESOURCES needed?</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The lead agency will research relevant categories and develop draft of suggested list 2. Lead agency will meet with an ad hoc group of neighborhood leaders to refine the list and customize it for each pilot neighborhood, with help from Neighborhoods Resource Center 3. Convene a group of Metro agencies & other groups for info and data (a Resource Team) 	MDHA & Civic Design Center with help from Neigh Resource Center, Metro Planning, & Universities (Vanderbilt, Belmont, Fisk, TSU)	<p>Existing staff</p> <p>[Total of two additional FTE's needed outside of government, to be spread across all goals, possibly through Neighborhoods Resource Center]</p>

ACTION 2: Development Plan for communities

Identify pilot neighborhoods with existing resident group(s) & poverty reduction efforts. Assist interested neighborhood group(s) to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities & threats in their community, using general categories developed in Action 1.

<i>What are the STEPS to carry out the action?</i>	<i>Who might take the LEAD?</i>	<i>New RESOURCES needed?</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Four to six possible pilot neighborhoods will be identified, to have cross-section of neighborhoods at various development levels 2. Contacts/groups for the selected neighborhoods will be identified and contacted for an initial meeting to help them identify needs and initial actions 3. Support the neighborhood groups in developing a simple neighborhood plan 	Lead: Neighborhoods Resource Center MDHA, MAC, Mayor's Ofc. of Neighborhoods, UW, neighborhood groups, Council Representatives, Metro Health Dept.	<p>Existing Staff, Volunteers, FRCs</p> <p>[Possible additional FTE inside government, to focus on the specifics of economic development in the pilot neighborhoods.]</p> <p>[Total of two additional FTE's needed outside of government, to be spread across all goals, possibly through Neighborhoods Resource Center]</p>

GOAL 3 - Improve neighborhood infrastructure, including public works, transportation, public safety

ACTION: Increase access to transportation for isolated populations and walkability to promote neighborhood interconnectivity

- Cohesive transportation system (discounted bus fare, carpooling network, or bicycle sharing program)
- Fully integrated and functional sidewalk system that promotes walkability and neighborhood connectivity.

<i>What are the STEPS to carry out the action?</i>	<i>Who might take the LEAD?</i>	<i>New RESOURCES needed?</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify neighborhoods which have transportation needs2. Form coalition between neighborhood groups and transportation partners, agencies3. Develop a pilot program similar to Jefferson Street United Merchants Partnership Senior Shuttle, for transportation needs identified by neighborhoods	Metro Social Services, Council on Aging, Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods	Existing staff; Council on Aging [Total of two additional FTE's needed outside of government, to be spread across all goals, possibly through Neighborhoods Resource Center] Government funding for shuttle (perhaps Regional Transp Auth?)

GOAL 4 - Improve the ability of Metro agencies to work with residents and neighborhood groups by:

- Listening carefully so that planning processes are neighborhood-led and reflect the voices of residents
- Developing cooperative relationships of trust and accountability in meeting neighborhood needs.

<i>What are the STEPS to carry out the action?</i>	<i>Who might take the LEAD?</i>	<i>New RESOURCES needed?</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Based on input from the pilot neighborhoods, select 2 to 3 "pilot departments" that have a great effect on neighborhood development, then design and implement a training program (Possible depts include: Codes, Health, Public Works, Police, Metro Planning, Parks & Rec, Storm Water, etc)2. Create an effective advocate or ombudsman within the Mayor's Office to insure responsiveness to the pilot neighborhoods selected in our other goals.3. Evaluate -- from pilot departments and pilot neighborhoods -- as to changes, practicality of expansion, etc.	Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods ??	Existing staff ?? [Total of two additional FTE's needed outside of government, to be spread across all goals, possibly through Neighborhoods Resource Center]

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES NEEDED:

Inside Government: One FTE for focused economic development in the 6 pilot neighborhoods (or those that choose to work on this). Various locations are possible: Mayor's Office of Economic Development, MDHA, NCAC, others.

Outside Government: Two FTE's to offer help to neighborhood groups in the pilot areas, or to help form these. Time will be spread across all goals. Location might be Neighborhoods Resource Center.

Additional: Some small funding for meeting expenses, postage, and printing may be necessary for these 6 pilot neighborhoods. The idea of a small fund for neighborhood projects was also discussed.

COST ESTIMATE:

1. Based on government and non-profit salaries, we would project Staff Costs to be:

Estimate for One FTE

\$50,000 salary each

\$15,000 benefits (30%)

\$7,500 administration and supervision (15%)

\$72,500 per FTE

Total Estimate for Three FTE's

\$217,500

2. Funding for meeting expense, postage, etc would be minimal, but we have no specific estimate.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PILOT NEIGHBORHOODS

After much discussion, we did not have specific suggestions for pilot neighborhoods – but we did have specific suggestions for HOW to select these:

1. We want to have pilot neighborhoods that are at various stages of development: Low – no neighborhood group; Middle – some neighborhood group; High – strong neighborhood group. Pilot neighborhoods might be spread through different quadrants of the city: North, West, South, and East.
2. We want to look at areas that show poverty needs – by income, education, and other socioeconomic status indicators, as well as those facing crime and other neighborhood issues. Other possible factors include number of Section 8 units, food stamp and Families First data (if available), etc.
3. We recognize that some areas of town seem to have changed rapidly and are becoming more “poverty” areas. Madison and Antioch are two that were mentioned.
4. Whatever areas are selected, they should not be too small or too large, since very small areas may not have enough residents that are willing and able to organize and very large areas are not often seen as “my neighborhood” by residents, as well as being too broad to be covered with one neighborhood organization. We suggested that a good rule might be the area of one census tract (or at most, two tracts).
5. We could see the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods working with the Neighborhoods Resource Center (and possibly others) to pick the neighborhoods.